

reefs have an immeasurable environmental value. They provide awe and inspiration to divers and snorkelers from all over the world, and are a driving force for our tourism and fishing industries. In Broward County alone, coral reefs contribute over \$2 billion annually to our local economy.

Coral reefs, however, are in nothing short of a crisis. Faced with dangers both man-made and natural, including global warming, overfishing, coastal pollution, and bleaching, coral reefs are dying in alarming numbers. In fact, scientists estimate that 60 percent of coral reefs may disappear before 2050.

That's why I'm proud to support the legislation before us today. H.R. 860 will reauthorize the landmark Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, which created the Coral Reef Conservation Program to directly issue grants to States, territories, and other partners for coral reef conservation projects. The act also requires the development of a Coral Reef Action Strategy and authorizes NOAA to undertake research, mapping, management, and education and outreach activities to protect coral reef ecosystems.

In addition to reauthorizing these important provisions, H.R. 860 will make important changes to the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000. One will be to take advantage of the vast resources and expertise at our prestigious universities and research institutes. For example, the three U.S. Coral Reef Institutes at Florida, Puerto Rico, and Hawaii conduct outstanding scientific research, and support State and local coral reef resource managers and local action strategies.

I personally can attest to their great work because the National Coral Reef Institute, NCRI, is located in my backyard, in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. NCRI and the other institutes serve as a ready source of knowledge, research, monitoring, and management support for corals and coral reefs via partnerships between academia, NOAA, and other Federal, State, and local managers.

Another important aspect of this legislation will be to authorize NOAA to respond to vessel groundings. Since 1994, we've seen 12 large ships run aground on sensitive coral reefs near Ft. Lauderdale. The last one, occurring almost 2 years ago, involved a freighter that left a 20-foot swath of destruction about 100 feet long. Whatever coral that once lived there sadly is now gone.

Part of the solution to vessel groundings is adopting better prevention strategies, such as closing anchorage sites in shallow waters that are close to coral reefs. But we also need to respond faster when a vessel runs aground because the sooner the corals can be restored, the better chances it has for survival. Expanding NOAA's authority to act will allow NOAA to utilize their experience and resources to both assess the damage and restore the reefs.

Mr. Speaker, we, in this distinguished body, frequently debate contentious issues that divide America. But not with this bill and not with this issue. Protecting a national treasure such as coral reefs brings people together because everyone understands their vital importance—Democrats and Republicans alike. That's why I am confident that we'll have broad bipartisan support to pass H.R. 860. I thank my colleagues in advance.

IN CELEBRATION OF SAINTS REST BAPTIST CHURCH'S 65TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Saints Rest Baptist Church of Fresno, California, on this ceremonious day, in celebration of their 65th anniversary.

The Saints Rest Baptist Church was organized by the late Rev. A.W. White and their motto of "Spreading Hope in the Midst of Hopelessness" remains inspirational today. Their mission statement rightfully explains the reason for their long-standing and continuing service to the community of Fresno: "The mission of Saints Rest Baptist Church is to become a Christ Centered Community within the community that transforms the community by providing relevant ministries that speaks to the mind, body, and soul of humankind."

The community of West Fresno grew rapidly during the early years of the Second World War. Noticing the growth of California Avenue and knowing no church existed to accommodate residents of that area, a prolonged and dedicated fundraising venture began for the purpose of building a church.

In 1945, groundbreaking ceremonies were conducted and the church was officially named Saints Rest Baptist Church. Only 1 year later, the church was able to add four deacons to serve the Saints Rest family. The church continued to grow and the faithful congregation endured worship services in a metal building located just north of the foundation with the knowledge and belief that this sacrifice would promote growth and allow them to continue their mission.

Former Pastor Chester Riggins, who served the church as pastor for 44 years from 1965 to 2009, helped to erect and then dismantle the metal building. It was in 1950 that the permanent building was officially erected and, poignantly, its first funeral service was for that of the founding father, Rev. A.W. White.

Under the leadership of Pastor Chester Riggins, many programs were instituted at the church, including the House-to-House Revival, Community New Life and Big Brothers and Sisters. Additionally, the community stewardship expanded to include Marriage Workshops, the Food and Clothing Ministry, and the support of the Poverello House and the Fresno Rescue Mission. Senior Pastor Shane Scott has now assumed the leadership at Saints Rest and continues to expand upon the outstanding community service the church provides to the community. As a first course of business, Pastor Scott immediately undertook the project of renaming East Florence Avenue to East Chester Riggins Avenue, in memoriam for the outstanding dedication and service of Pastor Riggins. The Planning Commission accepted the renaming and a dedication ceremony was held in June 2007 and the address for Saints Rest is now 1550 E. Rev. Chester Riggins Avenue.

Today, 65 years after its inception, the Saints Rest Baptist Church continues to be a shining light for the community of Fresno and its worshippers. Please join me in recognizing Senior Pastor Shane Scott and the Saints Rest family on the occasion of their 65th anni-

versary and wish them well as they continue to provide a meaningful place of worship for their congregation and the community. I am proud of the spiritual substance Saints Rest provides to our valley; the church's many efforts inspire and bring support to all of us.

CHINN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL,
PARKVILLE, MISSOURI

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Chinn Elementary School in Parkville, MO. The school opened in 1959, and was officially named Thomas B. Chinn Elementary School in honor of Thomas B. Chinn, in gratitude for his long service and as a tribute to his profession.

Mr. Conyers was the first principal of the school in 1959. Chinn started as a 13 room structure and contained 1st through 6th grade. Since 1959, there have been 2 additions to the building, increasing grade level classrooms to 24, as well as several additional small rooms and a new gymnasium. Over the past 50 years, Chinn has had thousands of students pass through the halls.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Chinn Elementary for the learning foundation it has provided to so many students for so many years.

A TRIBUTE TO RICK WAGNER

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS-

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember Rick Wagner, Director of Litigation for the Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A "Brooklyn A" in East New York, who suddenly passed away in his home on September 20, 2009. Mr. Wagner was well known as a champion on behalf of Brooklyn's poorest tenants and homeowners.

Mr. Wagner was one of the leading foreclosure defense lawyers in the United States, single handedly leading the effort to educate and enlighten the legal community on the availability of a wide range of homeowner defenses to foreclosure actions. He fought daily against rampant predatory lending and deed thefts, often spearheading innovative new legal strategies. In the early 1990s, he pioneered the use of civil racketeering laws against landlords in East New York, winning a major victory when they were ordered to return deeds to their tenants.

His most recent focus was advocating for consistency, simplification and ease of access to loan modifications—in his words, "basic rules of the road to help homeowners keep their homes". Mr. Wagner's lasting legacy will be his passion and commitment to social justice, and the application of his legal acumen for the needy. Under his leadership, Brooklyn A has cemented its sterling reputation as a model community-based law practice embedded in and responsive to the neighborhoods it serves. He worked tirelessly and will be remembered dearly by the many lives he touched.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in remembering Rick Wagner. May his soul rest in peace.

SUPPORTING NATIONAL WILD HORSE AND BURRO ADOPTION DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 22, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of our nation's wild horses and burros. These graceful and social wild animals have captured the hearts and minds of many Americans. They are stunning to watch as they roam free on public lands and remain an historical national treasure. It is imperative that we protect and ensure a viable future for them.

Ensuring a strong adoption program for wild horses and burros is one important step toward addressing the current ineffective, inhumane and expensive practices the Bureau of Land Management, BLM, has employed to manage the population. As such, I support this bill and will continue to work to ensure the success of the adoption program.

However, adoption alone will not offset the damage caused by the failed herd management practices of the BLM. Despite efforts to adopt out horses and burros, BLM has more than 30,000 wild horses in holding areas. In October 2008, the GAO released a report entitled "Effective Long-Term Options Needed to Manage Unadoptable Wild Horses." This report affirms that BLM will continue to face budget shortfalls if long-term corrections to current management practices are not put in place. The bulk of these shortfalls are anticipated to result from the current management methods that round up wild horses and burros from Herd Management Areas, HMA, to long- and short-term holding areas.

The BLM maintains that removal of the horses from the BLM lands is necessary to "maintain a thriving ecological balance." However, the BLM has a history of using this statutory goal as justification for failed herd management practices.

When Congress enacted the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971, 54 million acres were dedicated for use by wild horses and burros. Currently, they roam on 29 million BLM acres and 2.5 million Forest Service acres. Additional state, tribal, and private lands bring the total acreage to 34.3 million, a reduction of 19.2 million acres. Approximately 13 million of the 19.2 million closed acres were under BLM ownership and closed to wild horses and burros because of new laws and regulations as well as BLM's own land use planning decisions. This clearly defies congressional intent and shows a pattern of behavior on the part of BLM that reduces the land on which wild horses and burros roam.

BLM's decision to reduce land available to the wild horses and burros is called into question by the facts. A 1990 Government Accountability Office (GAO) report concluded that removals had not been demonstrated to improve range conditions, in part because livestock cause greater degradation to riparian areas and consume higher levels of forage.

Furthermore, the Congressional Research Service states that the extent of damage by wild horses and burros as compared to livestock suffers from a "lack of definitive data on forage consumed and range degradation." Yet there are approximately 33,000 wild horses and burros on 34 million acres of land, while there are at least 6.4 million cattle, sheep and other livestock that graze on 160 million acres of BLM land. The density of the livestock population far exceeds that of the population of wild horses and burros. But BLM continues to argue that the horses and burros threaten BLM's ability to maintain ecological balance.

Recently, the BLM justified a roundup of wild mustangs on the Pryor Mountain Range of Montana and Wyoming with the "thriving ecological balance" argument. The Pryor Mountain Range wild mustangs are reported to have a genetic link to the Spanish horses of the Conquistadors brought to America in 1500. Their DNA makes them a unique wild horse that is a distinct part of America's history.

According to equine geneticist, Gus Cothran of Texas A&M University, who has been studying the wild horse population of the Pryor Mountains for many years, the single most important factor "in maintaining genetic variation in a managed population is effective population size." Genetic diversity is vital to the long term survival of any herd. BLM's decision to roundup the Pryor Mountain Range horses threatens the effective population size which compromises the genetic diversity of the herd.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H. Res. 688 and pledge to continue to work to correct the failed management practices of the BLM.

HONORING THE WHITE ROCK LAKE DOCTORS HOSPITAL ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, today I recognize a valued member of our community, Doctors Hospital at White Rock Lake, and join with them in celebrating their 50th anniversary.

In 1959, Doctors Hospital at White Rock Lake was established with a mission to provide quality health care to the East Dallas, Garland, Mesquite. Five decades later, this full-service hospital continues to pursue its mission by providing outstanding care ranging from obstetrics to acute care for the elderly.

Located in East Dallas, Doctors Hospital's outpatient facilities include a wound/vein center, sleep center, women's imaging center and rehabilitation center. I recently had the privilege of touring their new surgical suites, which will provide a comfortable place for family members to stay while their loved one receives the care they need.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Fifth District of Texas, I am honored to recognize Doctors Hospital at White Rock Lake's 50th anniversary, and I commend the Board of Directors, physicians, nurses and staff for helping to provide quality health care to our community.

OPEN UP THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, investing in American energy resources will create jobs, stimulate our economy, and end our dependence on foreign oil.

Last year, Congress and President Bush announced an end to a decades-long ban on energy exploration off America's coasts.

Instead of moving forward with a plan to explore the Outer Continental Shelf, this administration has stopped progress by instituting an extended six-month public comment period.

Now, Secretary Salazar has indicated offshore exploration may not happen until 2012—meaning a six month delay could become a three-year ban.

Earlier this year, I had the opportunity to tour parts of the OCS and observe offshore oil and gas production.

Madam Speaker, I saw firsthand the need to take an all-of-the-above approach when it comes to our energy portfolio—an approach which includes developing American offshore energy resources.

Remember, putting roadblocks up to stunt energy production now will only mean higher energy prices in the future.

A TRIBUTE TO MR. W. HORACE CARTER

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Mr. MCINTYRE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a truly outstanding North Carolinian, W. Horace Carter, of Tabor City. As we grieve his loss, we also celebrate his life and commitment to bettering this world as a distinguished man of words, a warrior against injustice, and man of rare and outstanding character.

As the editor and publisher of a small-town North Carolina newspaper, The Tabor City Tribune, Mr. Carter's staunch opposition against the local activities of the Ku Klux Klan helped quell the expansion of the Klan in the Carolinas. Over three years, his paper ran more than 100 Klan-related stories and editorials that he wrote. They reported and commented on rallies, shootings, beatings and a series of floggings that eventually brought the Federal Bureau of Investigation to the region and ended with federal and state prosecutions of more than 100 Klansmen. Mr. Carter successfully used written language as a powerful tool of social change, and for this he was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Meritorious Public Service in 1953. In 2007, Mr. Carter was bestowed with North Carolina's highest civilian honor when he was inducted into the Order of the Long Leaf Pine.

He was the first in his family to graduate from high school, and he attended the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, where he was editor of the student newspaper, The Tar Heel. He would go on to serve in the Navy, in both the North Atlantic and the Pacific, during